



Etchings of Rome with associated gouaches

Richard Beer

St George's Gallery Prints 7 Cork Street W1 Regent 3660

6th to 29th October 1960

Richard Beer

Richard Beer was born in London in 1928. He studied at the Slade and at Hayter's Atelier 17 in Paris. Now he teaches etching at the Regent Street Polytechnic, having just completed three years teaching under Anthony Gross at the Slade

One of Beer's particular talents is for theatrical décor: his best known enterprise in this field was the sets for John Cranko's 'Lady and the Fool', first performed at Sadler's Wells in 1954, and redesigned for Covent Garden a year later. As a painter, his penchant for the theatre is evident in all that he does, and the character of his work often calls to mind the paintings and prints by the French theatrical designers such as Clavé and Carzou

The current suite of etchings arises out of Beer's constant attraction to Italy and the restrained ebullience of Baroque architecture and Baroque living, of which that country was both instigator and is now chief exponent. Indeed any aspect of Rome's streets and buildings seems always to assume voluptuous operative action on the part of the inhabitants (which they seldom fail to provide) so that it is not surprising to find the architecture in Beer's prints bearing that same promise of human combustion as does the first glimpse of a theatrical set the moment the curtain rises. Thus, although the view of the Colosseum is supported by the appearance of a single carrozza, the bluest of blue skies announces the imminent end of the siesta-hour and the arrival of streams of tiny cars and scooters generating that concomitant cacophony which is the hall-mark of Italian motoring. In each etching the views are contemplative and calm: if you linger a moment longer, however, your stillness will be rudely shattered; but the splendid stage upon which the action will occur remains there for you to wonder at, like the green grass and the flowers on a battlefield

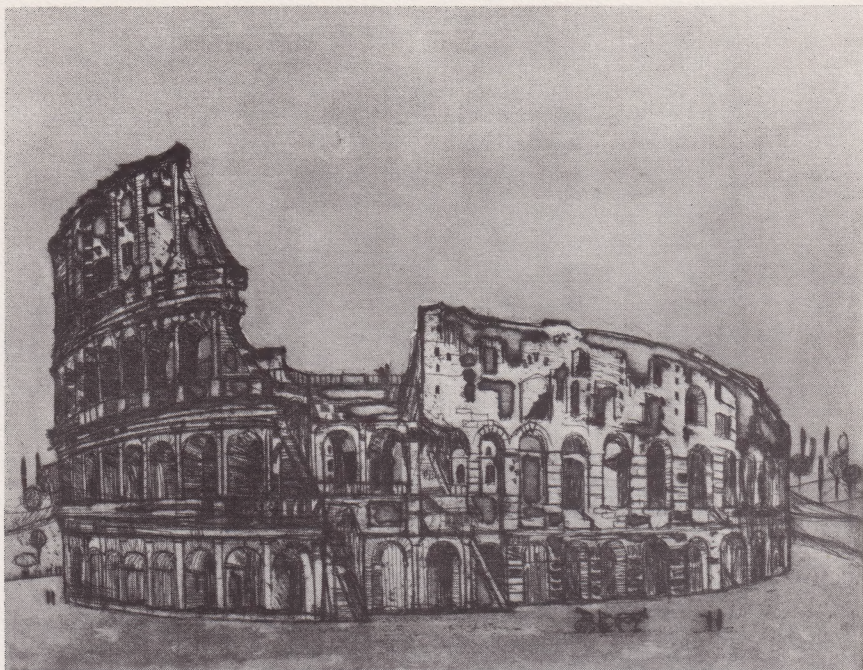
Robert Erskine



Piazza Navona

The Prints

The six etchings described in this catalogue were begun October 19, 1959, and were published by the St George's Gallery Prints as from October 6, 1960. They were proofed by the artist himself, and the edition has been printed by Messrs Sturgess & Brunson in Welwyn. The paper size is Imperial ($22\frac{1}{2}'' \times 32''$) and all the plates measure $21\frac{1}{2}'' \times 17''$. Each etching is priced at 8 gns, and the entire suite is sold for £45. There are 50 copies of each print in the edition plus six artist's proofs





Baroque Church

opposite

The Colosseum

Pincio Gardens



Piazza del Popolo

Cover illustration: **Two Churches**

